

TWO BIRD DAYS NEAR WASHINGTON, D. C.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

The vicinity of the city of Washington is relatively not a very good place for birds, even during seasons of migration. So far as we are aware, never more than 83 species have ever been noted here in a single day, and this exceptional record was made, of course, during the spring migration. The following lists, therefore, composed almost entirely of breeding birds, appear to be possibly worthy of publication, as an index of what is to be seen in this vicinity in summer.

On the first of these days, May 26th, 1905, observation was continued from 7:30 a. m. to 8:00 p. m.; and the route lay from the city eight or nine miles by water up the narrow, shallow, Anacostia river to beyond Bladensburg, well-known as a deep water port a hundred years ago, but now far beyond the reach of navigation except in small boats. The return was made over the same route. The parks of the city with the marshes, swamps, wooded banks, pastures, and fields along the stream furnish a desirable variety of country for ornithological investigations, and on this occasion 59 species were noted, of which all but two—the American Merganser and the Black-poll Warbler—must be regarded as summer residents.

Following is the list:

Merganser americanus.—American Merganser. One seen on the river.

Butorides virescens.—Green Heron. Common.

Nycticorax nycticorax nævius.—Black-crowned Night Heron. Common.

Actitis macularia.—Spotted Sandpiper. A few seen.

Zenaidura macroura.—Mourning Dove. One seen.

Cathartes aura septentrionalis.—Turkey Vulture. Common.

Buteo lineatus.—Red-shouldered Hawk. One observed.

Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis.—Fish Hawk. One seen.

Ceryle alcyon.—Belted Kingfisher. One seen.

Dryobates pubescens medianus.—Downy Woodpecker. Tolerably common.

Colaptes auratus luteus.—Flicker. Common.

- Chactura pelagica*.—Chimney Swift. Common in the city.
Tyrannus tyrannus.—Kingbird. One seen.
Myiarchus crinitus.—Crested Flycatcher. Common; nest in process of construction found.
Horizopus virens.—Wood Pewee. Common.
Empidonax virescens.—Green-crested Flycatcher. Common.
Cyanocitta cristata.—Blue Jay. Two heard.
Corvus brachyrhynchos.—American Crow. Tolerably common.
Corvus ossifragus.—Fish Crow. A few noted in Washington.
Agelaius phoeniceus.—Red-winged Blackbird. Common.
Sturnella magna.—Meadowlark. One heard.
Icterus spurius.—Orchard Oriole. Tolerably common.
Quiscalus quisqualis.—Purple Grackle. A few noticed in the city.
Astragalinus tristis.—American Goldfinch. Abundant.
Passer domesticus.—English Sparrow. Abundant in the city.
Spizella pusilla.—Field Sparrow. One heard.
Melospiza cinerea melodia.—Song Sparrow. Abundant.
Pipilo erythrophthalmus.—Chewink. Common.
Cardinalis cardinalis.—Cardinal. Abundant.
Cyanospiza cyanea.—Indigo Bunting. A few observed.
Progne subis.—Purple Martin. One observed.
Hirundo erythrogastra.—Barn Swallow. Tolerably common.
Riparia riparia.—Bank Swallow. Common.
Stelgidopteryx serripennis.—Rough-winged Swallow. Tolerably common.
Ampelis cedrorum.—Cedar Waxwing. A few noted.
Vireosylva olivacea.—Red-eyed Vireo. Abundant.
Vireosylva gilva.—Warbling Vireo. One heard.
Lanivireo flavifrons.—Yellow-throated Vireo. Common.
Vireo noveboracensis.—White-eyed Vireo. Abundant.
Minotilta varia.—Black and White Warbler. Common.
Vermivora pinus.—Blue-winged Warbler. One noted.
Compothlypis americana usneæ.—Parula Warbler. A few observed.
Dendroica æstiva.—Yellow Warbler. Tolerably common.
Dendroica striata.—Black-poll Warbler. Common.
Seiurus aurocapillus.—Oven-bird. Common.
Seiurus motacilla.—Louisiana Water-Thrush. Two observed.
Geothlypis trichas.—Maryland Yellow-throat. Common.
Icteria virens.—Yellow-breasted Chat. Common.
Setophaga ruticilla.—American Redstart. Common; nest with sitting bird found.
Galeoscoptes carolinensis.—Catbird. Abundant.
Thryothorus ludovicianus.—Carolina Wren. Common.
Troglodytes ædon.—House Wren. One heard.

- Telmatodytes palustris*.—Long-billed Marsh Wren. Abundant.
- Bæolophus bicolor*.—Tufted Titmouse. Common.
- Penthestes carolinensis*.—Carolina Chickadee. Common. Nest with young noted.
- Poliophtila cærulea*.—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. One noted.
- Hylocichla mustelina*.—Wood Thrush. Common.
- Merula migratoria*.—American Robin. A few noted in the city.
- Sialia sialis*.—Bluebird. Two observed.

On the second day, May 30, 1905, the observer was in the field from 6:30 a. m. to 6 p. m. A ride on the electric road for some nine miles northwest of the city on the Maryland side of the Potomac River, brought him to Cabin John Bridge, famous for being the second longest single stone arch in the world. This is one of the best places for birds in the neighborhood of Washington, and the entire day was spent in the valley of Cabin John Creek, along the canal which parallels the Potomac, and in the adjacent upland fields and woods. The number of different birds identified was 58, of which only one—the Lesser Scaup Duck—can be considered a transient. Species in the following list that were not observed on May 26 are designated by an asterisk:

- **Fuligula affinis*.—Lesser Scaup Duck.—One seen on the Potomac River.
- Actitis macularia*.—Spotted Sandpiper. Tolerably common.
- Cathartes aura septentrionalis*.—Turkey Vulture. Common.
- Ceryle alcyon*.—Belted Kingfisher. One seen.
- Dryobates pubescens medianus*.—Downy Woodpecker. Tolerably common.
- **Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.—Red-headed Woodpecker. One observed.
- Colaptes auratus luteus*.—Flicker. Tolerably common.
- Chætura pelagica*.—Chimney Swift. Common in the city.
- **Trochilus colubris*.—Ruby-throated Hummingbird. One seen.
- Tyrannus tyrannus*.—Kingbird. One observed.
- Myiarchus crinitus*.—Crested Flycatcher. A few noted.
- **Sayornis phœbe*.—Phœbe. Two seen.
- Horizopus virens*.—Wood Pewee. Common.
- Empidonax virescens*.—Green-crested Flycatcher. Tolerably common.
- Cyanocitta cristata*.—Blue Jay. Tolerably common.
- .. *Corvus brachyrhynchos*.—American Crow. A few noted.

Agelaius phoeniceus.—Red-winged Blackbird. Two seen along the river.

Icterus spurius.—Orchard Oriole. Tolerably common.

**Icterus galbula*.—Baltimore Oriole. Tolerably common.

Quiscalus quiscula.—Purple Grackle.—Tolerably common in the city.

Astragalinus tristis.—American Goldfinch. Abundant.

Passer domesticus.—English Sparrow. Common.

**Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*.—Grasshopper Sparrow. One heard.

**Spizella socialis*.—Chipping Sparrow. Tolerably common.

Spizella pusilla.—Field Sparrow. Common.

Melospiza cinerea melodia.—Song Sparrow. Common.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus.—Chewink. A few observed.

Cardinalis cardinalis.—Cardinal. Abundant; nest with young found.

Cynospiza cyanea.—Indigo Bunting.—Tolerably common.

**Piranga erythromelas*.—Scarlet Tanager. One seen.

**Piranga rubra*.—Summer Tanager. One observed.

Progne subis.—Purple Martin. A few seen.

Stelgidopteryx serripennis.—Rough-winged Swallow. A few noted.

Ampelis cedrorum.—Cedar Waxwing. Tolerably common. a new nest found.

Vireosylva olivacea.—Red-eyed Vireo. Abundant; a pair seen building a nest.

Vireosylva gilva.—Warbling Vireo. One heard.

Lanius flavifrons.—Yellow-throated Vireo. Common.

Vireo noveboracensis.—White-eyed Vireo. Common.

Mniotilta varia.—Black and White Warbler. A few noted.

**Helmitheros vermivorus*.—Worm-eating Warbler. One observed.

Compsothlypis americana usneæ.—Parula Warbler. A few noticed.

Dendroica æstiva.—Yellow Warbler. Tolerably common in the city.

Seiurus aurocapillus.—Oven-bird. Abundant.

Seiurus motacilla.—Louisiana Water-Thrush. Two seen, evidently near their nest.

Geothlypis trichas.—Maryland Yellow-throat. Common.

Icteria virens.—Yellow-breasted Chat. Common.

Setophaga ruticilla.—American Redstart. Common; nest in process of construction found.

Galeoscoptes carolinensis.—Catbird. Abundant.

**Toxostoma rufum*.—Brown Thrasher. A few noted.

Thryothorus ludovicianus.—Carolina Wren. Tolerably common.

Troglodytes ædon.—House Wren. Two noted.

**Sitta carolinensis*.—White-breasted Nuthatch. Tolerably common.

Bæolophus bicolor.—Tufted Titmouse. Common.

Penthestes carolinensis.—Carolina Chickadee. Tolerably common.

Polioptila cærulea.—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. A few noted.

Hylocichla mustelina.—Wood Thrush. Common.

Merula migratoria.—American Robin. Tolerably common.

Sialia sialis.—Bluebird. Two observed.



COMMON TERN. (*Sterna hirundo*.)

Nest and Eggs.

Woepecket Id., Mass.